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EMBASSY OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Rome, June 2, 1988

Dear Bill:

I so appreciated your letter of May 13, 1988. The words of approval of the sixteen Congressmen who spoke on the floor of the House came as quite a surprise and your kind note has added even more to my pleasure. It has been many years now that we have been working together and I want to let you know how much I appreciate your friendship and your constant support. I look forward to seeing you again in Rome.

With warm personal regard,

Cordially,

*Max*

Maxwell M. Rabb  
Ambassador

The Honorable William H. Webster  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

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ER 1987/1 88

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

May 13, 1988

The Honorable Maxwell M. Rabb  
American Ambassador  
Via Veneto 119/A  
Rome, Italy

Dear Max:

Believe it or not, I don't have time anymore to read the Congressional Record from cover to cover, but my good friend and colleague Bill Sessions somehow spotted the lovely tribute by Peter Rodino and sent it along to me. When I look back over the last ten years and realize how important Italy has become in the scheme of things, especially in our national efforts to deal with organized crime and drugs, inevitably I think of all that you have contributed to this special relationship. In the years that I have visited with you in Rome, it is abundantly clear that much of it is due to your deft touch and wise counsel.

I hope to see you again soon. Love to Ruth and best to you,

Sincerely,



William H. Webster

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L-202-1R



**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**

Office of the Director

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 26, 1988

Honorable Maxwell M. Rabb  
The American Ambassador  
Via Veneto 119/A  
Rome, Italy

Dear Ambassador Rabb:

I was pleased to read of Mr. Rodino's tribute to you in the Congressional Record of April 18, 1988, H1647-H1649, and have enclosed the pages from my copy of the Record. I thought it was significant that he was joined by so many Members of the House who expressed their admiration for you and Mrs. Rabb.

Please know that I adopt all of the remarks. Please accept my thanks for your support of the Italian-American Working Group efforts and for your hospitality and kindness to me.

Please give my best regards to Mrs. Rabb.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "B. Sessions", is written over the typed name.

William S. Sessions  
Director

Enclosure

cc: Honorable William H. Webster

from Illinois [Mr. ANNUNZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. ANNUNZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### TRIBUTE TO MAX RABB

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. RODINO] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RODINO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Maxwell M. Rabb, our Ambassador to Italy—"Max" to everyone who has met him—set a record in United States-Italy diplomatic relations. On April 17, he became the longest serving U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Italy.

While it is not a record which will find its way into the Guinness Book of Records, it is significant because it attests to Max's extraordinary qualities as a diplomat, a gentleman, a negotiator, and a humanitarian.

One has only to look at the list of his illustrious predecessors, such as Claire Booth Luce, James Clement Dunn, David Zellerbach, Frederick Reinhardt, and John Volpe to have an idea of the significance of this achievement.

Others will relate to you, I am sure, in detail Max's expert handling of various crisis situations in Italy, such as the *Achille Lauro* incident, the kidnapping of General Dozier, and the successful negotiation of an important extradition treaty with the United States.

In all of these, I supported Max's efforts to maintain the traditional good will and friendship between our country and Italy. His contribution to the successful negotiation of the extradition treaty with Italy has done much to help us thwart criminal and drug-related activities. Also, his participation, with the Italian Government and with many of us, in reversing the rise of terroristic activities in Italy must be recognized and applauded.

But I wish to look back to an earlier time, some 35 years ago. When I first met Max he was an Assistant to President Eisenhower and Secretary to the Cabinet. One of his many duties in the White House was to be the principal refugee adviser and coordinator for refugee affairs.

As a junior member of the Judiciary Committee at that time, I recall working closely with him to enact the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 to facilitate the admission of refugees from the Iron Curtain countries of that period. Under this act, the United States relieved internal economic and population pressures in the struggling post World War II Western European countries. Max can take credit for giving hundreds of thousands of refugees a new lease on life and for participating, in a true sense, in the economic recovery of those countries devastated by the war.

Again, in his humanitarian tradition, he participated with our Judiciary

Committee colleagues in late 1956 in utilizing for the first time the parole provision of the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow some 38,000 Hungarian refugees to enter the United States following the Hungarian revolution in 1956.

Of course, since those days Max and I have met many, many times in a social and business context. Throughout the years, his wisdom and ingenuity have contributed toward enhancing the democratic and humane image of the United States, both nationally and internationally.

During my many visits to Italy over the years, I have had occasion to observe Max in his dealings with government figures, with Italian businessmen, and with the general populace. It is quite evident that from all his contacts and discussions that he is a highly respected and admired diplomat and one who has clearly earned the warmth and affection of the Italian people. Because of Max's understanding and compassion, he has clearly won the hearts of all Italians. Max can properly be described as an "Ambassador Extraordinaire."

This tribute would not be complete without giving equal recognition to Max's charming wife, Ruth. I have been fortunate to have been on numerous occasions a guest at the Ambassador's residence, the Villa Taverna in the heart of Rome. Ruth, with her elegance and social grace, has transformed this 16th century nobleman's mansion into a setting characterized by warmth, comfort, and hospitality. I admire her dedication and contribution to the public service in her own right—she is certainly our coambassador to the Republic of Italy.

I think that the bottom line is—if President Reagan were to search the length and breadth of this great country of ours—he could not find better representatives of the United States to Italy than Max and Ruth Rabb.

This special order I have taken today is a small measure of the gratitude and affection that I and my colleagues have for Max Rabb.

I congratulate Max and Ruth for their tenure record and I congratulate the President for having the foresight to select Max for this important diplomatic post and the wisdom to keep him there for this historic length of time.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my good friend, Congressman PETER W. RODINO, JR., in paying tribute to Ambassador Maxwell M. Rabb, who on April 17, became the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy in the history of our Nation's diplomatic relations with that country.

I have had the honor of working with Ambassador Rabb on a number of occasions on several projects of significance to the mutual benefit of both the Republic of Italy and the United States, and I know firsthand the outstanding service he has performed in the representation of our country.

Ambassador Rabb has dedicated his life to the public service of our Nation. He was the

administrative assistant to two U.S. Senators from Massachusetts beginning in 1937, and served our country with distinction in the Amphibious Corps of the U.S. Navy from 1944 to 1946. In 1946 he became a legal and legislative consultant to the Secretary of the Navy.

Under President Eisenhower, between 1953 and 1958, Ambassador Rabb served as a Presidential assistant and as the Secretary to the Cabinet. In 1958, President Eisenhower named him chairman of the U.S. delegation to the 10th Unesco Conference in Paris, and he continued to serve on the Executive Board of the U.S. National Committee for Unesco through 1960. President Johnson appointed him as a member of the Presidential Commission on Income Maintenance Programs, and also as the U.S. conciliator of the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes. He also received appointments from both Presidents Ford and Nixon.

Appointed American Ambassador to Italy in June 1981 by President Reagan, Ambassador Rabb has worked on several important projects promoting cooperation between the United States and Italy, including the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear weapons in Italy, and three multinational peace forces which were sent to the Middle East. He also was instrumental in the development of a new extradition treaty which has facilitated joint action in the prosecution of international drug traffickers and organized crime.

For his outstanding and dedicated service in enhancing the relationship between the United States and Italy, in 1982 he was named Cavaliere di Gran Croce by the then Italian President Sandro Pertini, an honor awarded to foreigners for their contributions to the Italian Republic.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Rabb is a fine public servant and an individual of great compassion and courage who has ably represented the best interests of the United States, while at the same time promoting the many ties which join the United States and Italy. In recognition of his many years of service as United States Ambassador to Italy, I would like to take this opportunity to commend him for his achievements and to extend to him my best wishes for future success, as he continues his service to our country in devotion to the highest standards of excellence.

Mr. BOLAND. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to have this opportunity to pay tribute to Maxwell M. Rabb, who yesterday became the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy.

I have known Max Rabb since 1953, the year I came to Washington as a freshman Member of Congress. Max had just been appointed Secretary of President Eisenhower's new Cabinet, a position which he held until 1958. He was renting an apartment on Massachusetts Avenue in the same building in which former Speaker Tip O'Neill and I were living.

I always found Max Rabb to be not only a personable and likeable neighbor, but an intelligent and tenacious administrator. The job of Cabinet Secretary is an extremely demanding one, and the responsibilities that come with it are diverse. It requires a discerning mix of assertiveness and delicacy and the ability to coordinate the agendas of not only an entire Cabinet, but the President as well. Max had that mix. The diplomacy he learned as Cabinet

Secretary no doubt has served him well as Ambassador to Italy.

Max was appointed Ambassador to Italy by President Reagan in June 1981, a post which he holds to this day. He is a survivor who endured two extremely trying crises in the *Achille Lauro* hijacking and the kidnapping of Brig. Gen. James J. Dozier. The manner in which Ambassador Rabb persevered toward a solution in those emergencies earned him the respect of the diplomatic world and the world in general.

As many of my colleagues know, noncareer Ambassadors are limited to a 3-year term of office. But the rules were bent a little for Ambassador Rabb, as they should have been. He is, after all, exception.

I commend my colleague Mr. RODINO for calling this special order to allow full recognition of Ambassador Rabb's remarkable achievements.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with my colleague from New Jersey [Mr. RODINO], in paying tribute to Maxwell M. Rabb for his outstanding skill and distinguished accomplishments as the American Ambassador to Italy.

Ambassador Rabb had a long and distinguished record of public service prior to his current appointment. He served as a congressional staff member, in the Navy's Amphibious Corps during the Second World War, and as an assistant to President Eisenhower. Later on, he served as a U.S. delegate to several multilateral agencies and in other challenging posts while distinguishing himself in the New York Bar.

Since June 1981, Maxwell M. Rabb has served as the American Ambassador to Italy, and on April 17, 1988, became the longest serving United States Ambassador to that country. During his tenure, the United States and Italy have worked closely together on several projects of great importance, such as the development of a new extradition treaty concerning the prosecution of international drug traffickers and organized crime, the decision to deploy cruise missiles on Italian soil, and the development of numerous bilateral accords in the arts, sciences, and business.

In a nation that is governed by multiparty coalitions, Ambassador Rabb has won many friends across the broad political spectrum. Ambassador Rabb's ability to appreciate and synthesize many sides of a difficult question could not help but endear him to the Italians, whose own political system thrives on diversity.

In 1982, Ambassador Rabb was named Cavaliere di Gran Croce by Italian President Sandro Pertini, an honor that is awarded to foreigners for their distinguished contributions to the Italian Republic.

Mr. Speaker, I invite our colleagues to join with me in saluting Maxwell M. Rabb for his fine accomplishments as the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy. He has been an outstanding diplomat, a great patriot, and an inspiration to us all. We wish him many more years of distinguished public service.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a very special day for my good friend Max Rabb. On April 17, Max became the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy in our Nation's history. I want to join my colleagues here today in congratulating Max on his years of dedicated service to our country.

Since June of 1981 Max has represented the United States in Rome. While 7 years may not seem like a long period of time, Max's service has extended for more than five decades. He began working for the Federal Government back in 1937, serving as administrative assistant to then U.S. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of my home State of Massachusetts. Following that, he was AA for Senator Sinclair Weeks, also of Massachusetts.

As early as 1953 Max had become an expert on United States-Italy affairs. During that time he served as a Presidential assistant and as Secretary to the Cabinet of President Eisenhower, and was awarded the title of "Commendatore of the Order of the Italian Republic" by that Government.

Max has gone through some particularly trying incidents in his 7-year tenure as the United States Ambassador to Italy. Many will remember his yeoman efforts in 1981 when U.S. Brig. Gen. James Dozier was kidnapped by the Red Brigades from his home in Verona. For 6 weeks he quietly but effectively worked with Italian officials, eventually succeeding in getting Dozier released, unharmed.

But perhaps his most difficult moment came following the *Achille Lauro* incident, when the United States had to violate Italian airspace to bring down the plane carrying the perpetrators. As Max himself says now, the Italian Government—never one of the more stable governments—was dangerously close to failing as a result of this affair. What Max doesn't acknowledge was the integral role he played in keeping the Italian Government together during that trying crisis.

He has served under Presidents of both parties. His knowledge in Italian affairs is unequaled. His dedication to public service is commendable. I can say without exaggeration that Max is without peer in the ambassadorial ranks of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Max for longer than either of us care to remember. In fact, Max and I first met back in 1952 when we worked together on the first Eisenhower Presidential campaign. I consider Max Rabb to be a personal friend of mine. More than that, I consider him to be an outstanding representative of our country. My wife Corinne and I want to personally congratulate and thank Max and his lovely wife Ruth for years of service to this Nation.

Mr. GRADISON. Mr. Speaker, honoring Max Rabb for his outstanding record as our Ambassador to Italy is for me a chance to reflect not only on his recent contributions to our Nation, but on his lifetime of public service. I first met Max Rabb when he was Secretary of the Eisenhower Cabinet and I was a young assistant to a Cabinet member. Over the years—35 to be exact—I have observed how Ambassador Rabb has moved in and out of Government, taking on increasingly important posts, and now has the distinction of setting a record for the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy.

Of course, the measure of the man is not his tenure but his accomplishments on behalf of the United States and the free world. I have been especially impressed by the close and effective working relations which he has fostered with Italy in the war against drug trafficking. Max Rabb and his wife Ruth as a team have set a standard for representing the United States abroad which will be an inspiration for others in years to come. I am delight-

ed to join with my colleagues in this well-deserved tribute.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, I am so very happy to join my good and dear friend, PETER RODINO—the very distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee—to add a few personal thoughts as we praise Ambassador Maxwell Rabb as he reaches a milestone in the history of the Foreign Service.

Althought not a career diplomat, he will have served longer in Italy than any other ambassador; but let me add the time served is really not the important thing. The quality of his service is really what counts.

I have personally been involved in some of the areas in which he has worked with great success. He has represented our country well—above and beyond the call of duty. I personally know he enjoys his job, but we must realize that he has served at great sacrifice to himself and his family—and at times his service has been at great personal risk.

It really would be appropriate to recite the story of his many careers, but let it suffice for me to say that he has served his country well as assistant and adviser to Senators, to Cabinet members and to Presidents. He is a great American. We are proud and certainly appreciate all of his contributions.

We are a better people, we are a better country because of his service. Now he adds Italy to his many accomplishments. We are better friends and our relations are that much better because of Maxwell Rabb: a great man, a great ambassador, a great American.

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Mr. RODINO for suggesting this tribute to Maxwell Rabb. I have great respect for this man who has served longer than any other U.S. Ambassador, devoted so much of his life to the work of his Government and, particularly to diplomacy.

It isn't often you find someone who is equally valued by the Republicans and the Democrats in our partisan town. But President Eisenhower saw that Max was an invaluable asset; so did President Johnson. So have many others.

My affection for Max Rabb may have something to do with the similarities in our early careers. Some 40 years ago we served Members of Congress. We both came to Washington, DC, in the 1940's as assistants to Members of Congress—he in the Senate, was the AA of Henry Cabot Lodge, and I was a secretary in the House for Congressman Thomas Eliot of Massachusetts. We both then served in the Navy. After World War II Max moved on to his illustrious career of service to Presidents. I came to the House.

More important, of course, we share a world view which owes much to history and depends on calm, assured diplomacy. Max is an honorable man—the quintessential diplomat—and a great American. I extend my warmest regards and high esteem for Max and his wife, Ruth. I know they have many years ahead of them, and many memories in the Congress and in the diplomatic service.

Mr. GUARINI. Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to join with Chairman RODINO in this tribute to Ambassador Maxwell Rabb, who is now the longest serving United States Ambassador in the history of our relations with Italy.

My friendship with Max goes back many, many years. I have known him as a lawyer, as

April 18, 1988

## CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE

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a political figure, as a statesman, as a humanitarian, and as a friend.

A recent book, "The Wise Men," by Walter Isaacson and Evan Thomas, described the achievements of leading American diplomats, who made such a great contribution to rebuilding the postwar world.

These statesmen had a number of important traits in common:

They believed in values, and used their considerable talents to promote democratic freedoms and a defense structure designed to keep the peace.

They performed in the service of the United States, and were beyond partisan politics, working with Democrats or Republicans in pursuit of common visions.

And they understood the need to work as partners with nations that share our goals, and our visions, and our hopes for a better world.

These words describe Max Rabb, who is a wise man par excellence.

Throughout his distinguished career, he has promoted good causes, elevated the legal profession, represented our country with distinction, and worked to help those in need.

When the poor sought simple justice, there was Max, on the board of the NAACP.

When people were starving in Bangladesh, there was Max, working to provide relief.

When freedom was challenged in war, there was Max, winning a Navy commendation.

When Democrats and Republicans were looking for able advice, there was Max: in the White House, in Congress, as Ambassador to Italy.

People sometimes forget that Italy is one of our most important and faithful allies. In times of crisis, we can count on Italy. And Italy can count on us. And no man better embodies the friendship that binds us than Ambassador Rabb. His ability, his warmth, and his commitment have made our friendship stronger than ever.

As Ambassador, he has been involved in many of the central issues of our time.

He worked with Italian leaders in the deployment of missiles in the early 1980's. Italy's support, and the successful deployment, helped open the door to the Reagan-Gorbachev negotiations that have already resulted in the INF agreement, and could result in a strategic arms agreement that would change the course of history.

During the difficult hours of the *Achille Lauro* incident, he walked a narrow line between United States and Italian officials to reduce tensions in an extremely dangerous situation.

In large measure through his wise counsel, the United States and Italy agreed on an important extradition treaty that made a major contribution to the battle against organized crime and the war against drugs.

As we speak here today, I have no doubt that Ambassador Raab is hard at work on matters of war and peace, economics and trade.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we all owe this distinguished public servant our thanks and our admiration for a job well done. As he crosses the historic threshold of being the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy, we join his many friends on both sides of the Atlantic in wishing him continued health and success.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank our most distinguished colleague from New Jersey, Mr. RODINO, for arranging this special order to honor our Ambassador to Italy, Max Rabb. Chairman RODINO has been one of the most constant leaders in the Congress to give appropriate attention to United States relations with Italy, and I commend him for his efforts.

It is most appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we honor Max Rabb today since this marks the occasion when he becomes the longest serving American Ambassador to Italy in the long and productive history of our diplomatic relations with that country.

This distinguished record of service to the United States and to American-Italian relations is a tribute to Max Rabb and his dedicated wife, Ruth. Under their leadership in Rome, our relations with the Italian Government and our ties of friendship with the Italian people have strengthened and grown.

As always happens in relations between free and independent democratic nations, strains have surfaced in our relationship. But Max Rabb has skillfully and carefully managed those challenges, he has kept them in proportion, and he has made a successful effort to prevent disruption of the overall excellent relations between the United States and Italy.

Mr. Speaker, I, like many of our colleagues in this House, have had the great pleasure of enjoying the hospitality of Max Rabb and his charming wife, at their residence in Rome. When my wife, Annette, and I were there most recently on a private visit, they were most gracious in making us welcome.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to Max Rabb and to his lovely wife, Ruth, on the occasion of this important milestone. It is my sincere hope that they will continue to serve our Nation so well as they have done in the past.

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman PETER RODINO for scheduling this tribute to honor Maxwell M. Rabb, who has been the American Ambassador to Italy for the past 9 years. Max Rabb, who has been a long time friend and an outstanding public servant. On April 17, 1988, Mr. Rabb will become the longest serving United States Ambassador to Italy in the history of our diplomatic relations with that country.

During his term as Ambassador, The United States and Italy have collaborated on several projects of importance including the deployment of intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Italy and a new extradition treaty which has permitted joint action in prosecuting international drug traffickers and organized crime. In 1982 Italian President Sandro Pertini named Ambassador Rabb Cavaliere di Gran Croce, an honor awarded to foreigners for distinguished contributions to the Italian Republic.

Mr. Rabb holds a long history of public service which includes work as an administrative assistant for several U.S. Senators, a Presidential Assistant and Secretary to President Dwight D. Eisenhower's Cabinet, and chairman of the U.S. delegation to the 10th Unesco Conference in Paris. He was also appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as a member of the Presidential Commission on Income Maintenance Programs and as U.S. conciliator to the World Bank's International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, ICSID. President Richard Nixon appointed him

to the Presidential Panel for Relief Aid for India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

Mr. Rabb was born in Boston in 1910. He attended Harvard University and Harvard Law School.

I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in paying recognition to this outstanding man who has done so much for our country.

#### LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A UNITED STATES-MEXICO JOINT DEVELOPMENT BANK

The SPEAKER. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. GONZALEZ] is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, this last week, to be precise last Thursday, I reintroduced a bill now numbered H.R. 4388 which I believe and have believed for 20 years is very critical because I first introduced a different form but essentially the same content of this bill 20 years ago in 1967-68. Those years were years that nobody seemed to think interest rates would ever reach such exorbitant and extortionist and usurious extents as 21 percent prime interest rate which in 1980 and 1981 we suffered through.

Mr. Speaker, at that time it was much less anticipated that our No. 1 trading partner at that time, which was Mexico, where we had a 700-percent-plus trade balance which no other country in the world could say the same as far as the United States international account was concerned. Nobody could visualize at that time that there were building up forces, though some of us spoke as I am today on the House floor for the Record so that I could hopefully attract the attention first of some of my colleagues on the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs, and second, some of the leadership in the House. But there was no way that in that environment one could say it would not be too long before we will have distress of major proportions up and down the border and internationally the United States, an importing nation, a debtor Nation for the first time since 1914.

It was very difficult and it is even today as I reintroduce this bill. In 1982 with the advent of a new President in Mexico who happened to come up on May 12, 1982, to address a joint session of the Congress, I took advantage while meeting him to run across his consideration this that I envisioned in H.R. 4388 which I call the United States-Mexico Development Bank.

He was very enthusiastic and said that I would soon be hearing from the Mexican Ambassador to the United States, which I did and I received the then wholehearted support of the Mexican leaders.

In 1982 as my colleagues will recall, that was a year of a pinnacle triumph of Reaganomics and Ronald Reagan's retrenchment philosophy, and there was absolutely no sympathy, nor even knowledge much less concern about